

We all want to communicate.



November 1, 2021

Toronto City Council
12th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2 VIA EMAIL

Attn: Marilyn Toft, Council Secretariat

Delivered by email to: councilmeeting@toronto.ca

Re: PH27.2 – Zoning Conformity for Official Plan Employment Areas – Phase 1 Final Report and Phase 2 Update

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of Toronto City Council,

On behalf Silent Voice Canada Inc., I wish to express our concern and alarm with respect to the report on Zoning By-Law conformity for employment zones in the Official Plan, specifically the proposed removal of permissions for bingo halls and related uses in the Former City of Etobicoke Zoning By-law (Attachment 9 to the Final Report).

Our charity is one of 66 local charities that rely on Delta Bingo and Gaming St. Clair, to support our organization in the Toronto community. Without that support we will simply not be able to function.

Silent Voice provides accessible essential programs and services to members of the Deaf community, in American Sign Language. BINGO proceeds cover the bussing costs to send Deaf kiddos, their siblings, and hearing kiddos of Deaf family members, to the only sign language summer day camp in Toronto. The funds help support our teachers in the Family Communication Program who teach ASL to hearing family members of a Deaf child. Imagine no communication in your own home. They support our Saturday Program Deaf mentors working with Deaf children and youth. Without the funds, we are severely limited in making a positive impact on Deaf children and youth, combatting isolation, and opening the world to them.

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**Member agency of Catholic Charities | Participant in ShareLife
Charitable Registration Number 107980625 RR0001**



The last 18 months have been very challenging for everyone, and our organization is no exception. We have struggled to survive with very little funding as Delta St. Clair was closed for 420 days over the course of the pandemic. Now, due to a proposed expropriation from the City of Toronto and Metrolinx, the Delta St. Clair location will have to move to another site. The new site (at 360 Evans Ave.) is currently zoned to allow for a Bingo Hall. Under the proposed By-law amendment that permission would be revoked.

As you can appreciate, finding an appropriate venue at a reasonable price in the current real estate environment is a real challenge. We are looking forward to the move to 360 Evans Ave. and urge you not to remove this permission and allow us to re-locate as planned with the current permissions.

Based on the concerns identified above, we respectfully request that the Draft By-laws and report, specifically as it applies to the use of employment lands for bingo halls, is removed entirely or in the very least referred back to City Planning staff for dedicated public consultation and review. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request, and we look forward to further discussions on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelly MacKenzie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kelly MacKenzie
Executive Director

CC: Mayor John Tory at mayor_tory@toronto.ca

CC: City Councillor Josh Matlow at councillor_matlow@toronto.ca